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Wednesday
November 8, 2023

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Just 10 days before another government shutdown, Congress eyes Ukraine, Israel and border security

By LISA MASCARO and STEPHEN GROVES

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) — Ten days before a potential government shutdown, Congress is no closer to resolving the standoff and is even complicating the issue with Republican demands for border security changes as a condition for further support for Ukraine in its fight against Russia.

New House Speaker Mike Johnson said Tuesday that Republicans don't want to close things down, but he's well aware that his predecessor, Rep. Kevin McCarthy, R-Calif., was ousted as speaker after compromising with Democrats in September to keep federal offices open.

"We certainly want to avoid a government shutdown," Johnson said at a news conference alongside families with loved ones kidnapped in the Israel-Hamas war.

"It's a dangerous time around the world right now," he said. "We recognize that, and we're doing our job."

Johnson is facing one of his most difficult tests yet, just two weeks on the job he won after McCarthy's ouster. Rather than lead the House Republicans into a strategy, the Louisiana Republican appears to be crowd-sourcing a way out of the government funding dilemma with his GOP colleagues.

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House Speaker Mike Johnson, R-La., speaks during a press conference with House Republicans and families of hostages being held in Gaza at the Capitol in Washington on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023.

Associated Press



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Just 10 days before another government shutdown, Congress eyes Ukraine, Israel and border security

Continued from Front

At a closed-door meeting Tuesday, House Republicans discussed stopgap measures including a new idea gaining traction, a "laddered" approach, which would fund parts of the government until early December and the rest until mid-January.

Another proposal would simply extend all government funding until mid-January, according to those Republicans granted anonymity to discuss the private meeting.

The Senate, meanwhile, which is controlled by Democrats, has been working to devise a more comprehensive spending plan that would fund the government at current levels while also considering President Joe Biden's nearly \$106 billion request for supplemental money for Ukraine, Israel, the Asia-Pacific region and border security.

"None of this will be easy to do, none of this" said Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y.

"The outcome of the next two weeks will hang on the same thing I've emphasized all year — bipartisan cooperation," he said.

Congress is in this budget-shutdown loop because the House and Senate have failed, as they often do, to pass the dozen individual bills needed to fund the various agencies in the federal government. When the new funding year began Oct. 1, lawmakers agreed to approve stopgap funding at the current levels until Nov. 17, to allow time to finish up the work.

To complicate matters this time, Republicans are refusing Biden's request to



Senate Majority Leader Chuck Schumer, D-N.Y., speaks to reporters about support for Israel following a closed-door caucus meeting, at the Capitol in Washington, Tuesday, Oct. 31, 2023.

Associated Press

support Ukraine in battling Russia unless the president agrees to their demands to beef up security along the U.S. border with Mexico.

Senate Republican leader Mitch McConnell said he spoke Monday with Biden and Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen and "made it clear to both of them: We have to have a credible solution" to the border.

Biden's funding request seeks nearly \$14 billion in border funds for holding facilities, asylum officers and other needs, including efforts to stop the flow of deadly fentanyl. But Republicans say the funding doesn't go far enough, and instead they are demanding policy changes that would make it more difficult for immigrants to claim asylum at the border. They also want to revive building the border wall.

Democrats decried the Republican proposal as a return to Donald Trump-

era border policies. They said that the Ukraine funds should not be held hostage as Congress tries to resolve U.S. border issues that have been a difficult policy problem for years.

Sen. Patty Murray, D-Wash., said Congress cannot leave Ukraine behind as it confronts Russian President Vladimir Putin. She had blocked a Republican attempt Tuesday to pass the House's Israel aid bill alone, without other aid.

"Ukraine is at a critical point in a brutal war. We must not give Putin a win and throw Ukraine to the wolves," she said.

Sen. Chris Murphy, D-Conn., said Ukraine's military could soon have "empty rifles." He said the decisions being made now in Congress could determine whether Kyiv, the capital, remains a city in Ukraine or falls to Russia in the next year.

While Biden had requested \$61 billion for Ukraine as

part of his package, Republican support is waning. Some Republicans are eyeing a smaller amount that focuses on military hardware rather than funding for humanitarian and government aid in Kyiv.

Unable to finish their annual government funding work in the two weeks ahead, Congress will almost certainly have no other choice than a stopgap funding bill to avoid a government shutdown.

While the House and Senate have both approved packages of bills to fund the government, they take different approaches. House Republicans are veering dramatically from the agreement Biden and McCarthy struck earlier this year to set spending levels. Instead, the House Republicans are slashing funding for most departments except defense, while the Senate also boosts defense and has shifted some re-

sources. Without compromise, the final products have not been sent to Biden's desk to become law. Johnson presented several government funding plans to Republican lawmakers at a closed-door meeting on Tuesday morning, according to lawmakers in the room.

The House's hardline conservatives including many in the Freedom Caucus mostly favored the two-step "laddered" approach because it would put a tight deadline on Congress to finish up the work and negotiate with the Senate. But senior Republicans on the House Appropriations Committee warned that it would likely take far longer than to reach an agreement with the Senate on spending levels, especially when an agreement on topline spending that Biden-McCarthy struck is no longer being met.

"Technically it just takes time," said Rep. Mario Diaz-Balart, a Florida Republican. Lawmakers do not expect any voting until early next week. That puts Congress on a tight deadline to avoid a shutdown.

But House Republicans noted that there is greater consensus around passing a stopgap funding measure than in September, when former McCarthy failed to gain GOP support for a funding plan. He had to turn to Democrats for support to keep the government open, and then faced the vote to oust him. The House Republicans saw their majority control come to a standstill as they spent most of last month struggling to elect a new speaker before settling on Johnson. □

The Air Force asks Congress to protect its nuclear launch sites from encroaching wind turbines

By TARA COPP

Associated Press

WASHINGTON (AP) —

The Air Force's vast fields of underground nuclear missile silos are rarely disturbed by more than the occasional wandering cow or floating spy balloon. But the service is now asking Congress to help with another unexpected danger: towering wind turbines, which are growing in number and size and are edging closer to the sites each year.

The silos share space on vast private farmlands with the turbines. Whereas the nuclear launch sites are almost undetectable — just small, rectangular plots of land marked only by antennae, a chain-link fence and a flat 110,000-ton (100,000-metric tonne) concrete silo blast door — the turbines are hundreds of feet high, with long, sweeping blades that have parts so large and long they dwarf the 18-wheeler flatbed trucks that transport them to new sites.

As nearby populations have grown, so have energy needs, and so have the number and size of the turbines. It's a boon for farmers and landowners, who can lease space on their lands to support both the military needs and wind power companies.

But the growth is making it dangerous for military helicopter crews. When an alarm triggers at a site, the UH-1 Huey crews fly in low and fast, often with security teams on board.

"When you think about a wind turbine, and even fields of wind turbines, they'll stretch for miles," said Staff Sgt. Chase Rose, a UH-1 Huey flight engineer at Malmstrom Air Force Base in Montana. "They're monstrous, and then you have gigantic blades spinning on them as well. Not only is that a physical obstacle, but those turbines, they create the hazards like turbulence as well. That can be really dangerous for us to fly into. So it's a very complex situation, when you have to deal

with those."

So the Air Force is asking Congress to pass legislation to create a 2-nautical-mile buffer zone around each site. The legislation has the support of wind energy advocates, but they caution against a one-size-fits-all approach. There are hundreds of underground silos spread across the U.S., in Nebraska, Colorado, North Dakota, Montana and Wyoming.

"The wind industry recognizes the nuclear missile silo mission is unique," said Jason Ryan, a spokesman for the American Clean Power Association, which worked with the Air Force and lawmakers on drafting language for a buffer zone. "However, one-size-fits-all setbacks do not make sense for other (Department of Defense) missions or assets as site-specific and mission-specific evaluations are necessary to ensure military readiness."

Jo Dee Black, a spokeswoman for NorthWestern Energy, which operates some of the towers near Malmstrom's launch sites, did not say whether the firm is in support of the buffer zone but said "we have always and continue to support the critical role Malmstrom Air Force Base has in our nation's security." "NorthWestern Energy and the U.S. Air Force have a long, successful history of collaboration that supports our missions of national security and providing safe, reliable energy service," Black said.

Language to create a setback was included in the Senate version of the 2024 National Defense Authorization Act. The language is not in the House version of the bill and would need to be negotiated in conference.

Under the legislation, current towers would be unaffected, unless a company decided to refurbish an existing tower to make it taller.

That could still be a problem for the air crews. Some of the modern turbines

have towers as tall as 650 feet, or nearly 200 meters, "which is twice the height of the Statue of Liberty," Air Force Maj. Gen. Michael Lutton, who oversees all 450 missile silo sites, said earlier this year. Some rotor diameters, the width of the circle swept by the rotating blades, can be as much as 367 feet (112 meters), the distance from home plate to the left field pole at the Colorado Rockies' baseball stadium.

Of the 450 sites, 46 are "severely" encroached upon, which the Air Force defines as having more than half of the routes to the launch site closed due to obstructions. But the service acknowl-



In this image provided by the U.S. Air Force, wind turbines spin near the Malmstrom Air Force Base missile launch site Alpha-03 in Geyser, Mont., in August 2023.

Associated Press

edges the difficult position it is in. The farmers who have allowed it to use their lands for decades benefit from the income from

the turbine leases, and the service does not want to appear to push back on environmental energy alternatives. □



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911 caller was involved in fight with Jewish pro-Israel demonstrator who died, sheriff says

By STEFANIE DAZIO and JU-LIE WATSON
Associated Press

THOUSAND OAKS, Calif.

(AP) — Southern California authorities investigating the death of a Jewish man following a fight with a pro-Palestinian demonstrator over the Israel-Hamas war haven't determined whether a crime occurred and on Tuesday asked for the public's help to unravel what happened.

Ventura County Sheriff Jim Fryhoff said deputies determined that Paul Kessler, 69, who died early Monday at a hospital, had fallen backward and struck his head on the ground at a pro-Palestinian demonstration Sunday afternoon in Thousand Oaks, a suburb northwest of Los Angeles.

The pro-Palestinian demonstrator stayed at the scene and told deputies he had called 911, Fryhoff said.

Fryhoff said investigators were getting conflicting information from witnesses on both sides about what took place before the fall and had not ruled out the possibility of a hate crime. No arrests have been made, and officials were asking for people to provide video footage if they have any.

"What exactly transpired prior to Mr. Kessler falling



Chief of Police Jeremy Paris, left, joined by Chief Medical Examiner Dr. Christopher Young, center, as Ventura County Sheriff Jim Fryhoff takes questions at a news conference at the Ventura Sheriff's East County Station in Thousand Oaks, Calif. on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023.

Associated Press

backward isn't crystal clear right now," Fryhoff said, adding that it's also unclear how many people were involved.

He cautioned people to not jump to conclusions, and "refrain from spreading rumors or spreading misinformation on social media or other platforms, as that can not only hinder our investigation, but it can cause unnecessary panic

in our community."

Demonstrations have been widespread and tensions are escalating in the United States as the death toll rises in the Israel-Hamas war. Last month a 6-year-old Palestinian American boy was stabbed 26 times by his landlord in what authorities have said was in response to escalating right-wing rhetoric on the conflict. Kessler was among a group

of pro-Israel demonstrators who showed up at the event that was advertised as a peaceful gathering to support Palestinians, Fryhoff said. About 75 people in total were there and authorities patrolling the area saw no indication of violence 15 minutes before the confrontation, Fryhoff said.

Deputies found Kessler bleeding from the head and mouth and he was

conscious as he was transported to the hospital, Fryhoff said.

A pro-Palestinian demonstrator stayed to tell deputies he had been involved in the fight with Kessler and had called 911 after he fell, Fryhoff said.

The pro-Palestinian protester is 50 years old and resides in the nearby city of Moorpark, Fryhoff said, adding that officials were not releasing his name at this time. He was detained briefly for questioning and authorities have searched his home.

Ventura County Medical Examiner Dr. Christopher Young said at the news conference Tuesday that an autopsy found Kessler died from a blunt force head trauma, and that the injuries were consistent with a fall. Kessler also had injuries that "could be consistent" with a blow to the face, but it's unclear what caused his fall, Young said. Kessler was injured on the left side of his face and back of his head. He had skull fractures and swelling and bruising of the brain, Young said. Kessler's death has been listed as a homicide, a medical determination that does not indicate a crime was committed, Young said. □



Traffic is at a standstill as a mixture of smoke and fog, known as "super fog" closed Interstate 10 in Louisiana on Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023.

Associated Press

NEW ORLEANS (AP) — Dense smoke reminiscent of last month's "super fog" that rolled into Louisiana has led to a deadly crash that shut down Interstate 10 in the New Orleans area early Tuesday, police said. The thoroughfare was

closed due to smoke, fog and accidents involving multiple vehicles, New Orleans police said after the accident around 4:30 a.m. In video from motorists, cars next to them disappear in the thick smoke. Sarah Trimble said she couldn't

Super fog blankets New Orleans again, as damp fires and smoke close interstate after deadly crash

see the tail lights of the truck in front of her as she crossed railroad tracks on her way to work. In another video filmed by Connie Fiorella, smoke envelopes cars around her while the car just ahead of her nearly disappears from view except for the outline of its brake lights.

Smoke from fires near New Orleans is getting trapped under a very shallow layer of the atmosphere near the ground along Interstate 10 in eastern Orleans Parish, the National Weather Ser-

vice said. As a result, motorists could see a quarter-mile (0.40 kilometers) or less, the weather service said.

"All that smoke has got nowhere to go," said Christopher Bannan, a meteorologist at the National Weather Service near New Orleans. In some areas of the smoke, people can look straight up and see a clear sky in the daytime or stars at night, Bannan said. But if they look horizontally, they can't see ahead of them, he said. The weather service issued a dense smoke

advisory. The thick smoke also reduced visibility along Interstate 55 in Louisiana, the weather service said.

Few details were available about the motorist who died Tuesday. Police said it was a man who died after being taken to a hospital.

On Oct. 23, seven motorists died and about two dozen were injured in pile-ups involving about 160 vehicles on I-55 near New Orleans amid a super fog, which is created by smoke from marsh fires mixed with dense fog. □

NATO freezes a Cold War-era security pact after Russia pulls out, raising questions on arms control

By LORNE COOK and HARRIET MORRIS

Associated Press

BRUSSELS (AP) — NATO member countries that signed a key Cold War-era security treaty froze their participation in the pact on Tuesday just hours after Russia pulled out, raising fresh questions about the future of arms control agreements in Europe.

Many of NATO's 31 allies are parties to the Treaty of Conventional Armed Forces in Europe, which was aimed at preventing Cold War rivals from massing forces at or near their mutual borders. The CFE was signed in November 1990 as the Soviet bloc was crumbling but was not fully ratified until two years later. NATO said that Tuesday's action by its signatory members was required because "a situation whereby Allied State Parties abide by the Treaty, while Russia does not, would be unsustainable."

Earlier in the day, Moscow said it had finalized its withdrawal from the treaty. The long-expected move, which the Kremlin blamed in part on NATO's continued expansion closer to Russia's borders, came after lawmakers in Moscow approved a bill proposed by President Vladimir Putin



U.S. President Ronald Reagan, right, and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev exchange pens at a signing ceremony of the Intermediate Range Nuclear Forces Treaty in the White House East Room

denouncing the CFE.

U.S. National Security Adviser Jake Sullivan said suspending the obligations by Washington and its allies will strengthen NATO's "deterrence and defense capacity by removing restrictions that impact planning, deployments, and exercises — restrictions that no longer bind Russia after Moscow's withdrawal."

Russia's actions "further demonstrates Moscow's continued disregard for

arms control," he added. The German Foreign Ministry underscored that Berlin and its allies are not pulling out of the treaty. "In the case of a fundamental change in Russia's behavior, a renewed implementation of the CFE remains possible," it said.

The ministry said Germany intends to stick to the national limits for weapons systems in the treaty. It criticized Moscow's withdrawal, saying that "Russia is

destroying another pillar of our European security and arms control architecture." "Securing a balanced conventional potential of forces in Europe cannot be realized without the involvement of Russia," it added. The treaty was one of a number of major arms control treaties involving Russia and the U.S. that has been crippled in recent years. Last week, Putin signed a bill revoking Russia's ratification of the Comprehensive

Nuclear Test Ban Treaty, a move that he said was needed to establish parity with the United States.

In February, with U.S.-Russia tensions running high over Ukraine, Moscow suspended its participation in the New START Treaty, the last arms control pact that remains between the two countries.

Both countries also pulled out of the 1987 Intermediate-range Nuclear Forces Treaty in 2019, blaming each other for violations.

The INF Treaty, which was signed by U.S. President Ronald Reagan and Soviet leader Mikhail Gorbachev, banned the production, testing and deployment of land-based cruise and ballistic missiles with a range of 500 to 5,500 kilometers (310 to 3,410 miles).

William Alberque, director of Strategy, Technology and Arms Control at The International Institute for Strategic Studies, expressed concern that another arms control treaty is under threat.

"What is needed right now is more transparency, more risk reduction, more what we would call guardrails on competition," he said. "We basically need to manage the competition so that it doesn't spiral into crippling arms races." □

Protests turn ugly as pressure mounts on Spain's acting government for amnesty talks with Catalans

By JOSEPH WILSON

Associated Press

BARCELONA, Spain (AP)

— Three people were arrested late on Monday in a protest against negotiations between Spain's acting government and Catalan separatist parties over a possible amnesty for thousands involved in Catalonia's independence movement.

Government authorities said that the arrests took place during a gathering by over 3,000 people in

front of the national headquarters of Spain's Socialist Party in Madrid. Two men were arrested for violent behavior against police, and one woman for disobedience, the representative of Spain's national government in the Madrid region said.

The leader of the far-right Vox party, which holds the third-most seats in the national Parliament, was at the rally. Several protesters waved Spanish flags and pushed back against

police in riot gear. There were other similar protests in other Spanish cities, but no additional arrests were reported.

Spain's acting Prime Minister Pedro Sánchez, the Socialists' leader, blasted the protests, saying they were being led by "reactionaries."

"To attack the headquarters of Spain's Socialist Party is to attack democracy." Sánchez is negotiating with the Catalan separatist parties to receive their back-



A man is detained by Police outside the Spanish Socialist party headquarters in Madrid, Spain, Monday Nov. 6, 2023.

Associated Press

ing in his bid to form a new government and keep his center-left coalition in power following an inconclusive national election in July. But the two separatist parties have demanded a sweep-

ing amnesty that would include their leaders who fled Spain following their failed 2017 secession attempt, in exchange for their votes in Parliament, among other concessions. □

Unification Church in Japan offers to set aside up to \$66 million in a compensation fund

By MARI YAMAGUCHI

Associated Press

TOKYO (AP) — The Unification Church's Japanese branch announced plans Tuesday to set aside a fund up to 10 billion yen (\$67 million) to cover possible compensation for those seeking damages they say were caused by the group's manipulative fundraising tactics.

The move is seen as an attempt to allay any suspicion that the group would try to avoid later payouts by hiding assets overseas while a government-requested dissolution order is pending.

The announcement by head of the controversial church's Japanese branch, Tomihiro Tanaka, came a month after Japan's Education Ministry asked the Tokyo District Court to revoke the legal status of the group.

The ministry investigation concluded that the South Korean-headquartered group for decades has systematically manipulated its followers into donating money, sowing fear and harming their family ties.

The investigation followed public outrage and questions about the group's fundraising and recruitment tactics that surfaced



Tomihiko Tanaka, left, President of Family Federation for World Peace and Unification, and its senior member Hideyuki Teshigawara, right, attend a press conference Tuesday, Nov. 7, 2023, in Tokyo.

Associated Press

in the investigation after former Prime Minister Shinzo Abe's assassination last year. The man accused of shooting Abe allegedly was motivated by the former prime minister's links to the church and blamed it for bankrupting his family. On Tuesday, Tanaka told reporters that the group is ready to deposit a fund of 6 billion yen (\$40 million) to 10 billion yen (\$67 billion) to the government if can set up a system to receive it. He offered his "sincere

apology" over the sufferings and difficulty of former followers and their families, but denied his group made any wrongdoings.

He said the government request for a dissolution order is unacceptable "from the viewpoint of religious freedom and the rule of law." The government is asking the court to issue a dissolution order revoking the church's status as a religious organization. The process involves closed hearings and appeals from

both sides and could take months or possibly years.

If the church is stripped of its legal status, it could still operate but would lose its tax exemption privilege as a religious organization and would face financial setbacks. Some experts and lawyers supporting the victims have cautioned against an attempt by the church to hide its assets before a court decision, and lawmakers are now discussing measures to make sure the church assets stay in

Japan to be used for compensation.

Tanaka denied that the group intended to transfer funds overseas, and said there was no need to take measures to preserve the group's assets.

A top church official in charge of reforms, Hideyuki Teshigawara, however, acknowledged that some church followers have traveled to South Korea to make donations there instead, but that details were not known.

Decades of cozy ties between the church and Japan's governing Liberal Democratic Party were revealed since Abe's assassination and have eroded support for Prime Minister Fumio Kishida's government.

The governing party has pledged to cut ties with the group, but has conducted only cursory hearings on the extent of lawmakers' ties with the church, which opposition groups have criticized as insufficient.

The Unification Church obtained legal status as a religious organization in Japan in the 1960s during an anti-communist movement that was supported by Abe's grandfather, former Prime Minister Nobusuke Kishi. □

Portugal's prime minister resigns as his government is involved in a corruption investigation



Portuguese Prime Minister António Costa gestures during a news conference in Lisbon, Portugal, Tuesday Nov. 7, 2023.

Associated Press

By HELENA ALVES and JOSEPH WILSON
Associated Press

LISBON, Portugal (AP) — Portuguese Prime Minister

António Costa resigned Tuesday after his government was involved in a widespread corruption probe, sending a shock

wave through the normally tranquil politics of the European Union member.

The 62-year-old Costa, Portugal's Socialist leader since 2015, asserted his innocence but said in a nationally televised address that "in these circumstances, obviously, I have presented my resignation to the president of the republic."

The announcement came hours after police arrested his chief of staff while raiding several public buildings and other properties as part of the probe.

The state prosecutor's office said the Supreme Court

was examining suspects' "use of the prime minister's name and his involvement" when carrying out allegedly illicit activities. It said the minister of infrastructure, João Galamba, and the head of the environmental agency were among those named as suspects.

Portuguese president Marcelo Rebelo de Sousa quickly accepted Costa's resignation. He is expected to dissolve parliament and call for a new election.

The president said in a statement that he is calling parliament to convene on Wednesday, and he will speak to the nation after

the Council of State gathers on Thursday.

Costa teared up while thanking his family for their support.

"I totally trust the justice system," he said. "I want to say, eye to eye to the Portuguese, that no illicit or even reprehensible act weighs on my conscience." He acknowledged that he was not "above the law."

"The dignity of the prime minister's office is not compatible with any suspicion on his integrity, good conduct, and even less so with the suspicion that any criminal acts were committed," Costa said. □

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World Mental Health Awareness marked at the Hilton with a series of 10 workshops

Palm Beach. -- A recent invitation to World Mental Health Awareness Day, alerted all Team Members at the resort of the availability of support, the opportunity to learn about mental health, and have questions and concerns answered, by a team of professionals in the field.

The invitation included team members who are parents, single individuals, grandparents, married couples, and those in relationships, or team members in need of advice on how to improve their individual mental resilience.

World Mental Health Day, observed worldwide on October 10th, inspired the resort to organize ten workshops covering the following topics: Mental Health & Aging, Mental Health & Addiction, Mental Health & Parenting, Children's/Teens Mental Health, Healthy Masculinity, Women's Men-



tal Health, Mental Health & Stress as well as Emotional First Aid. Besides these workshops the team members also had the opportunity to experience some massage and yoga sessions.

All workshops were conducted by professionals including social workers, psychologists and representative of various foundations

such as Centro di Desaroyo Hende Muhe, Tienda di Educacion, Heart Centered Leadership Foundation and Fundacion hende homber.

"We too view Mental Health as a Universal Human Right," says Glenn Farro, Director of HR, "and we feel that raising aware-

ness of the importance of mental health, contributes to the resilience of our team members. This year's theme highlights the fact that mental health is fundamental, and every person should have access to the highest standard of mental health care and protection from mental health risks in this community."

"At the Hilton Aruba," Eugenille de Marchena, HR Manager, adds, "We begin by engaging in conversations with our Team Members, inquiring about their well-being. Subsequently, we offer guidance to help them access resources and professional assistance. During our inaugural mental health day, we invited all team members to participate in learning sessions aimed at self-support and understanding how to support others during challenging times."

The Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino would like to thank all the social workers, psychologists and representatives of the foundations for their collaboration. All sessions at the Hilton Aruba Caribbean Resort & Casino were organized in-house, by the resort's social worker and the HR team. □

Aruba's Bocas: home to the rarest fossil reefs on the planet!

(Oranjestad)—If you've been to the northern coast of Aruba already, you've probably noticed how the ground differs entirely from the sandy beaches on the southern part of the island. These hard surfaces, with sharp bumps and holes are actually fossilized coral reefs, of which its growth and changes can be traced back to the last glacial period.

On May 30 2023, geoscientists, Dr. Patrick Boyden from the Marum research faculty at the University of Bremen, Prof. dr. Alessio Rovere from the Ca' Foscari University of Venice and Prof. dr. Gianfranco Scicchitano,

from the University of Bari Aldo Moro, presented their research on these fossilized coral reefs at the University of Aruba. Their focus for their research included studying the health and formation patterns of these coral reefs, and to investigate how these reefs have responded and can respond to fluctuating sea levels or extreme weather, like hurricanes and tsunamis.

Through underwater and land surveillance, and 3D models of the reefs, they were able to narrow down when these formations started to take place. They were also able to track the fluctuation of sea levels during

the past hundred or even thousands of years, and the effects that this fluctuation has had on the coral reefs of the windward side of Aruba.

These findings can certainly put things into perspective. The ground on which we have walked many times in the northern part of the island hold such rich history, history that dates back to a time that most of us cannot even imagine. As the scientists themselves have pointed out, these fossilized reefs on the windward side are truly an incredible and rare remnant of geological history, as they provide a clear view of how these



reefs have formed.

This research is also important for the future of coral reefs on the island. By studying rising sea levels and climate impact on these coral reefs, we are able to take concrete action in protect-

ing and preserving our coral reefs. So, if you are ever visiting one of the bocas or driving along the northern part of the island, please be conscious to help protect our natural historical remnant. Oh, and wear (coral-friendly) sunscreen! □

Po-kè Ono - A Taste of Asia with a Twist: Exploring Flavorful Fusion



Amidst the vibrant paradise of Aruba, where turquoise waters meet golden sands, a culinary gem awaits: Po-kè Ono, the coolest Asian fusion spot that will whisk you away on an exotic flavor adventure. Experience an explosion of Asian tastes like never before led by the creative genius of Chef Urvin Croes, the mastermind behind Aruba's acclaimed Infini restaurant. Po-kè Ono serves up an enticing menu that blends traditional Asian flavors with modern twists, all within a cheery ambiance that exudes warmth and tropical charm.

At Po-kè Ono, diners can savor an array of flavors from the new menu items that stand out for their artful presentation and delectable taste. One of the highlights is the traditional Vietnamese Pho, a soul-soothing soup consisting of bone broth, rice noodles, succulent thinly sliced meat, fresh herbs, and zesty spices, making it an explosion of taste in every spoonful.

Another must-try dish is The Elvis Presley Bao, a playful homage to the King of Rock 'n' Roll. This fun creation features fried spam with sweet teriyaki, peanut sauce,

crispy fried plantains, crisp lettuce, red onions, and a spicy kick from the Kewpie mayo. The combination of sweet, savory, and spicy flavors is a harmony that leaves guests coming back for more.

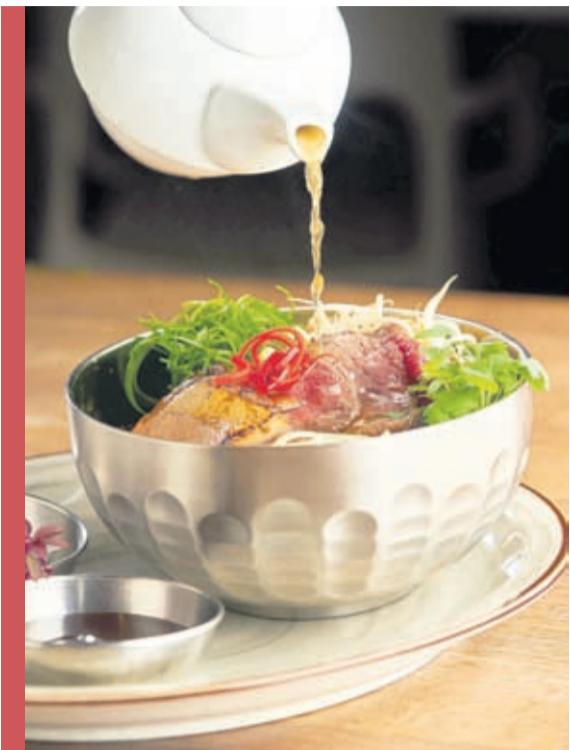
If you're craving a delicious fusion of Indonesian and Hawaiian influences, the Babi Sate Poke hits all the right notes. Indonesian-style pork skewers are served with rich peanut sauce, crunchy crispy onions, pickled cucumber, and creamy avocado, resulting in a medley of textures and flavors that captivate the palate.

Beyond the flavors, Po-kè Ono impresses with its thoughtfully curated ambiance that reflects the Asian fusion theme. With two locations in Renaissance Marketplace and the lobby of Azure Residence, the restaurant exudes a tropical and laid-back vibe, inviting guests to unwind and indulge in a delightful dining experience. The use of fun cocktail glasses and relaxed decor further enhances the sense of pleasure, making every visit a memorable one.

Get ready for double the fun at Po-kè Ono with their awesome two-for-one happy hour. From 4 pm to 6 pm, this fantastic deal lets you dive into selected items at an incredible value. It's the perfect opportunity to try out their fresh new menu while sipping on delightful beverages.

Meet the culinary maestro, Chef Urvin Croes, the creative force behind Po-kè Ono and Infini. With an unyielding passion for Asian cuisine, rooted in his Chinese heritage, he sprinkles his magic on every plate at Po-kè Ono, crafting innovative and artfully delicious dishes. Having honed his skills in top-notch hotel restaurants and even snatching the title of 'Iron Chef Aruba's first winner,' Chef Urvin's culinary expertise shines through in every mouthwatering bite.

Promoting Aruba as a culinary destination, Chef Urvin sources ingredients



locally whenever possible, supporting farmers who share his passion for quality produce. The result is a menu that expertly balances traditional recipes with modern techniques, elevating every dish to new heights. His love for food and the cultural stories behind each creation are evident in the passionate manner in which he prepares and presents his dishes.

Notably, Po-kè Ono has earned its well-deserved reputation as the number one restaurant on Tripadvisor Palm Beach, a testament to its success and popularity among locals and tourists alike.

Po-kè Ono is like a treasure trove of Asian fusion delights, all crafted with love and expertise by the one and only Chef Urvin Croes. You'll be treated to an array of dishes, from Pho to inventive Bao creations, each artfully presented. The relaxed ambiance and awesome two-for-one happy hour make dining here an absolute pleasure. Once you've tasted the magic of Po-kè Ono, you'll be coming back for more! So, what are you waiting for? Dive in and indulge in this captivating world of Asian-inspired goodness!

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Blackstone Beach

(Oranjestad)—Named after its most recognizable feature, the Blackstone Beach almost represents the opposite of the typical Aruban beaches. For one, it has black sand and is covered in black smooth stones. Secondly, it lies on the northern side of the island, away from the white sandy beaches of in the southern region. So, if you feel up for something different—or if it's opposite day, visit the Blackstone Beach.

Blackstone Beach shows the more natural side of Aruba: the stones that cover the beaches and the shape of it has been crafted for thousand years via volcanic eruptions, coral reef movements and wave activity of the rural northern part of the island.

Located further east to the Natu-

ral Bridge and Andicuri Beach, the Blackstone Beach is relatively easy to access. Once you get passed the Ayo Rock Formation, take the Andicuri road leading up to Andicuri Beach. There, you can park your car and take a 1km hike towards Blackstone Beach.

This beach forms part of the Arikok National Park and is therefore a site that is preserved. This is why it is also relatively untouched by commercial influences. Despite being called a beach, do note that it is not advised to swim in the water, as the current is very strong and can easily stray you further in the wild ocean. However, you can still enjoy a spectacular view of the stones and the northern ocean that stretches out in front of the beach and take a picture with your friends or family! □



Fresh fish right out of the Caribbean Sea to your plate

ORANJESTAD – Fish restaurants are everywhere, but do they serve fresh fish daily right out of the Caribbean Sea? The Grand Fish Restaurant does. This locally-owned restaurant is situated merely 5 minutes from the strip and is open as early as 11am for the lunch lovers.

The minute you step inside you can feel the homey and cozy warm ambiance by the décor and the friendly staff who will receive you with open arms.



The Grand Fish Restaurant has an extraordinary menu starting with appetizers, salads and their famous fish soup. The entree dishes consist of a variety of fresh fish like whole red snapper, fish steak, fish cake, grilled salmon, mixed seafood or seafood rice (paella local style) combined with sides of vegetables, french fries, rice, plantain, the island's traditional 'pan bati' (slapped bread) or funchi (cornmeal cake).

Each and every dish is made with passion, love and dedication. Yes... even the fried ones!

There are also pasta, meat and poultry options plus a kid-friendly menu with crispy chicken or fish nuggets, cheese burgers, mac & cheese and kid tenderloin.

Pair your meal with your favorite drink or cocktail, a wine of your choice or a glass of The Grand Fish yummy home-

made fresh lemonade.

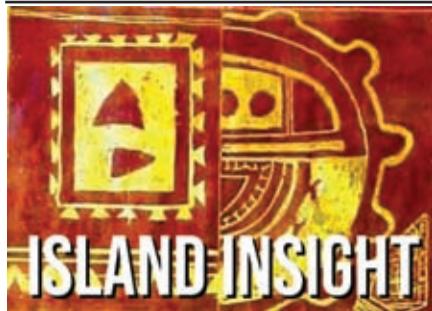
If you haven't visited The Grand Fish yet, check out our local page for a coupon for a free glass of wine and make sure to drop by. The staff will be happy to welcome, guide and serve you for an amazing casual bite and good time.

The Grand Fish Restaurant is situated at

Taratata Road 15, unit #1.

Open from 11AM – 10PM from Wednesday till Monday
CLOSED on Tuesdays!!!





Article by Etnia Nativa

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Cochineal, how does this red insect dye works? Episode CCXXXI- 231

Every week, Etnia Nativa unveils a new episode regarding culture and heritage, focusing on native knowledge, transcendental wisdom, and the importance of defending Aruba's true identity. Articles that connect the reader with a mystical aspect of the island, its culture, and its traditional heritage encourage all to interact with the native environment by adopting an authentic island state of consciousness.

During this episode, we share about a small industry that was established in Aruba during the 19th century and that currently supplies a globally demanded natural product. It is the grana, or cochineal, and has its origin in an insect known as the cochineal tick that parasitizes the leaves of the prickly pear and thrives by extracting its juice to ripen.

At the time when Aruba was dedicated to the cochineal industry, specific areas were designated for its cultivation. Within the limits of Oranjestad, it was common to see plantations in Socotoro, Companashi, Mon Plaisir, Sividivi, Canashito, and Quivarco, but there were also in Savanata, Sabana Grandi, Sta. Cruz, and Noord, near Shaba, Cunucu Abao, Pos Abao, Tanki Flip, Tanki Leendert, and Ponton. To improve the production of cochineal, at the same time

the cultivation of a local plant was implemented, known as the catash tree, or Loki Loki (*Phyllanthus botryanthus*), whose leaves, rolled into a cone shape, the locals called "cartuchi" or "peperesh," were used as protection against wind and bad weather so that the tiny insect could thrive by being nailed to the cactus using a Breba (*Lemaireocereus griseus*) thorn.

Different families were dedicated to its cultivation, such as the Dutch Strakbein family in Sabana Grandi. We know it was exhausting work. The women were taught how to treat the insect with soft cactus spines and then how to collect it in paper bags. They could earn five guilders per pound when the industry was flourishing, which was a good income for that time.

In the mid-19th century, aniline dye began to be marketed in Germany, the commercial value of cochineal plummeted, and local crops gradually disappeared. The bug or tick can still be found in gardens all over the island,

but the use of pesticides has reduced its occurrence.

The mealybug tick is round, reddish-black in color, and covered in white powder. If we crush this insect, when it is fully developed, it will give off a reddish or carmine tint. When the insects are mature, they are collected with a brush not to harm or damage the product and placed in the sun or dried in the oven. To get an idea of how much, one pound of color is the work of approximately 70,000 mealybug ticks. The dye obtained is called cochineal red and is the natural source of carmine, a red dye in great demand and the protagonist of the most intense reds in the cosmetic industry, which, from the point of view of quality, is the most demanding and accepts only high-purity carmine in its production.

Although the appearance of synthetic dyes caused the cultivation of cochineal to decline today, when natural products are preferred by consumers, its extraordinary demand has produced a price increase of up to five times. Countries such as Peru, Chile, and the Canary Islands stand out as global exporters of cochineal. In 2022, Peru positioned itself as the main world producer, in addition to being recognized since ancient times as one of the most experienced in the use of cochineal in the textile industry and in artisanal techniques.

In the pharmaceutical industry, cochineal carmine is used in the preparation of tablets. It is also used as a food coloring in the sausage industry and in the coloring of alcoholic and non-alcoholic beverages, jellies, jams, ice creams, yogurts, and soups, among others. Standing out as a basic ingredient in the food industry, it is added to almost everything, from yogurt to ice cream, including drinks and donuts. □



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Did you know about... Basic driving rules on Aruba (part 1)

(Oranjestad)—Have you ever felt confused when you're driving on the highways or backstreets of Aruba? Then we present a simple guide to some of the basic rules of Aruban traffic, along with some tips for things to look out for.

Speed limit

Legally, the speed limit on the four-lane highways is 80 km/h. This speed limit also counts for the main roads that are connected to the highways. The minimum speed is 50 km/h. Most people drive around 60 km/h on the main roads and about 70 km/h on the highways. There are also areas that indicate a speed limit on a sign; these are usually around populated and school areas.

The four-lane highways contain the left-lane, also known as the "fast" lane for each direction. Here is where vehicles can drive up to the maximum speed. However, legally it is not permitted to drive for long periods of time on the left lane. This lane is primarily designed for drivers to switch lanes before a roundabout, for example, if your exit on the roundabout is on your far left. The general lane to drive in—both at maximum and minimum speed—is on the right lane.

Roundabouts

Speaking of roundabouts, it is important to know where you have to enter and drive on the roundabout to make your exit. A good rule of thumb is to count the exits starting from your right side. So, exit 1 would be on your right; exit 2 would be straight ahead; exit 3 would be on your far left and exit 4 would lead to the road paralleled to the one you're on, heading in the other direction.

Most roundabouts have these 4 exits, so they are relatively simple. When you're driving on the four-lane highway, it is important to know when to switch to



the left lane to make your exit: if your exit is on your far left (exit 3), then you need to switch to the left lane on the highway before nearing the roundabout so you can take the path that leads you directly to your exit. If your exit is on your right or if you're going straight ahead, you can keep driving in the right lane of the highway.

It's also important to know that vehicles about to enter the roundabout must yield to those already on it. A good rule of thumb is to look out if someone is coming from your left side.

However, other roundabouts can be quite tricky

to navigate...

Watty Vos Boulevard (the "paperclip" roundabout)

Probably the biggest roundabout on the island, the "paperclip" roundabout on the Watty Vos Boulevard is one of the trickier roundabouts that could—and has—caused confusion among both tourists and locals. However, once you take a good look at it, it's fairly simple. The basis is just the same as a regular roundabout (left exit? left lane! etc.), but instead of having four different exits like on a regular roundabout, now you have two extra; one on the right and the other on the left side of the roundabout. The rules

don't change at all, you just have to keep an extra eye open.

Airport roundabout

Ah, yes. The infamous airport roundabout. The favorite roundabout amongst local, because of its easy (hard) lanes that never (always) cause confusion among drivers. Sarcasm aside, this roundabout can be tricky to enter, especially when you're driving from the direction of the airport heading. When you're driving away from the airport reaching the roundabout, you'll be faced with three lanes. The far right lane is to take the exit 1 out heading east (right lane of highway). The middle exit is

used for exit 1 (left lane of highway), 2 and 3. The far left exit is used to only exit on exit 3 (left lane of highway) and 4.

"Las Americas" roundabout

The Las Americas roundabout is located near the Talk of the Town hotel, west from the airport roundabout. This roundabout may look like a regular roundabout—and for the most part, it is. However, when you are driving from the east going in the direction of town, please take note that there are two exits on your right.

When you're driving towards this roundabout, you'll notice that the road becomes wider, splitting into two lanes. The right lane is used to take the first and second exit on the right. If you want to exit straight ahead, you must drive on the left lane!

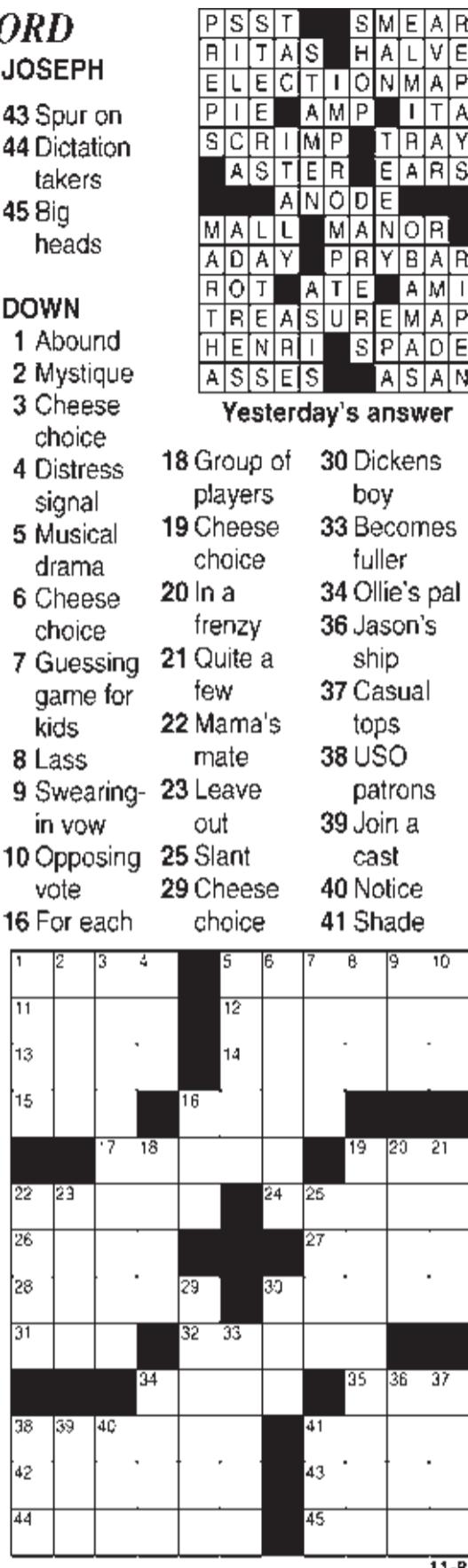
It's always scary to drive in new places where the traffic may look and work differently, but once you get it right once, you'll get the hang of it in no time. Additionally, all roundabouts and roads on Aruba have signs and arrows painted on the road to help guide you. So take your time, keep your eyes open and don't forget to wear a seat belt! □



CROSSWORD

By THOMAS JOSEPH

- ACROSS**
- 1 Bugler's evening call
 - 5 Source
 - 11 Continental coin
 - 12 Spanish inn
 - 13 Amorous archer
 - 14 Hire
 - 15 Dallas player, for short
 - 16 Recite the rosary
 - 17 Shark's home
 - 19 Copier problem
 - 22 From the Arctic
 - 24 Michelle or Malia
 - 26 Writer Oz
 - 27 Steel ingredient
 - 28 Ship of 1492
 - 30 Loquacious
 - 31 Put away
 - 32 Cheese choice
 - 34 Thailand, once
 - 35 Diamond club
 - 38 Driver's surcharge
 - 41 On this spot
 - 42 Pleistocene period
- DOWN**
- 1 Abound
 - 2 Mystique
 - 3 Cheese choice
 - 4 Distress signal
 - 5 Musical drama
 - 6 Cheese choice
 - 7 Guessing game for kids
 - 8 Lass
 - 9 Swearing-in vow
 - 10 Opposing vote
 - 11 Spur on takers
 - 14 Big heads
 - 15 Source
 - 16 Recite the rosary
 - 17 Shark's home
 - 18 Group of players
 - 19 Cheese choice
 - 20 In a frenzy
 - 21 Quite a few
 - 22 Mama's mate
 - 23 Leave out
 - 25 Slant
 - 29 Cheese choice
 - 30 Dickens boy
 - 33 Becomes fuller
 - 34 Ollie's pal
 - 36 Jason's ship
 - 37 Casual tops
 - 38 USO patrons
 - 39 Join a cast
 - 40 Notice
 - 41 Shade



A X Y D I B A A X R
is L O N G F E L L O W

One letter stands for another. In this sample, A is used for the three L's, X for the two O's, etc. Single letters, apostrophes, the length and formation of the words are all hints. Each day the code letters are different.

CRYPTOQUOTE

J C Z K X D B G M L P B U P , Z K X

Q K G ' M M B E W M K Z K X T

C T J P G Q I Z K X M B E W M K Z K X T

P G P F J P I . — Q P I F K G Q M X M X

Yesterday's Cryptoquote: I WAS THIRTY-TWO WHEN I STARTED COOKING; UP UNTIL THEN, I JUST ATE. — JULIA CHILD

Millennial Money: 5 ways to get kids excited about investing

By ALANA BENSON
of NerdWallet

What was your favorite thing to talk about as a kid? Maybe it was dinosaurs, or Barbie or the Magic Treehouse book series. It probably wasn't compound interest. Getting kids excited about investing can pay off for the rest of their lives — but how do you do it? Here are five strategies to help get kids interested in investing for good.

1. MAKE IT RELATABLE

Explaining what investing is and why people should care about it can feel like an exercise in futility — the jargon, the math, all the acronyms — but at its core, investing is incredibly simple. Investing means taking the money you already have and using it to make more money without having to do any additional work. When talking with kids, stay away from "Roth IRA," "dividends" and "return on investment," and instead focus on the basics. The language should be simple: If you have \$100 now, and you invest it, you may have \$110 later. Then, that extra \$10 you earned will start earning money, too. You can play around with an investment calculator to help them visualize how their money could earn more money over time.

And while it's good to be skeptical of financial advice on social media, there are some great sources of information that may help get kids more interested in money management.

"I got started with the help of YouTube," says Ariana Bibiesca, a content creator based in Malibu, California, who started investing at age 16 and now

runs the TikTok account Ari Invests. "I spent about 10 months doing research before I decided to open up my brokerage account." Bibiesca got introduced to investing through social media, particularly through her YouTube recommendation page, which showcased videos about credit cards, the college application process, starting your own business, and investing.

2. HAVE THEM INVEST IN WHAT THEY'RE INTO

One way to get a kid excited about investing, according to Riley Adams, a certified personal accountant and founder of Young and the Invested in Pleasanton, California, is to help them connect with brands they like.

"Instead of saying, 'I shop at Nike,' or 'I use Snapchat,' it actually lets you go a step further and gets you involved by not just spending your money with these companies, but making money on things you already do," Adams says.

Investing in brands kids are excited about may help them feel a more personal connection to the experience. If they're invested in their favorite store, shopping there may feel like they're helping make their own stock more valuable instead of just spending money.

3. MAKE IT A GAME

Investing itself may not be something kids are interested in, but turning it into a game may help your kids feel more excited about it — especially if there's a chance they can beat you at it.

You can have regular contests to see who can make more money on their in-

vestments, with the winner earning a prize in addition to whatever profits they make; or see who can better predict what happens to the stock market based on what's happening in the news.

Just like players can lose when playing a game, investors can lose money. Helping a child understand the risks is an important piece of the puzzle when it comes to helping them develop a healthy relationship with investing.

4. GET THEM SOME PRACTICE

If you don't want to risk real money, you can open a paper trading account for kids, which allows them to simulate the investing experience for free.

"I practiced with fake money before investing my own money for about two months," Bibiesca says.

"I used the app Stock Market Simulator which gave me \$10,000 of simulated money to invest."

I showed my parents my entire journey with it and would even force them to watch a couple YouTube videos with me so they understood what I was learning."

If the kids in your life are ready to start investing for real, you can help them open a 529 plan to help them save for college, a Roth IRA to get a jump on retirement, or a custodial brokerage account for general investing.

4. HELP THEM MAKE IT A HABIT

Making a habit stick requires repeating the behavior again and again. If you're trying to help a child stick with investing for good, they'll need to get in the habit of doing so early. If you give a child an allowance or pay them for small jobs around the house, help develop their investing habit by teaching them to take a portion of their earnings and put it toward investing for the future. This can help cement the habit and make it something they do regularly as they get older. □

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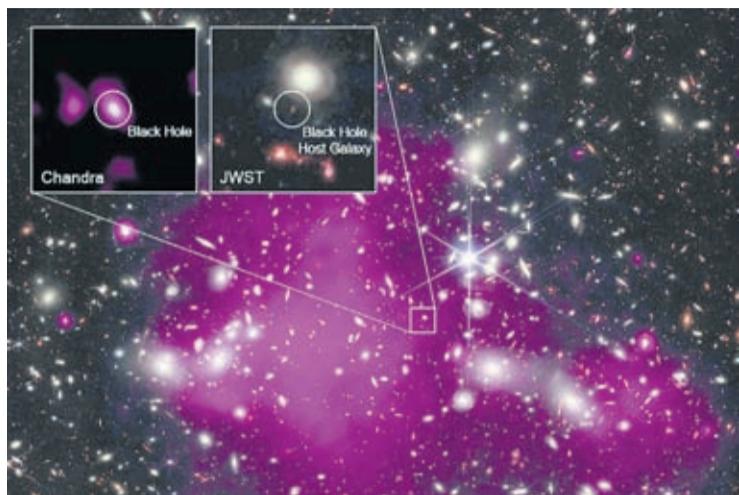
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Oldest black hole discovered dating back to 470 million years after the Big Bang



This annotated image provided by NASA on Monday, Nov. 6, 2023, shows a composite view of data from NASA's Chandra X-ray Observatory and James Webb Space Telescope indicating a growing black hole just 470 million years after the big bang. It is the oldest black hole yet discovered.

Associated Press

By MARCIA DUNN
AP Aerospace Writer
CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP) — Scientists have discovered the oldest black hole yet, a cosmic beast formed a mere 470 million years after the Big Bang. The findings, published Monday, confirm what until now were theories that supermassive black holes existed at the dawn of the universe. NASA's James Webb Space Telescope and Chandra X-Ray Observatory teamed up over the past year to make the observations.

Given the universe is 13.7 billion years old, that puts the age of this black hole at 13.2 billion years.

Even more astounding to scientists, this black hole is a whopper — 10 times big-

ger than the black hole in our own Milky Way. It's believed to weigh anywhere from 10% to 100% the mass of all the stars in its galaxy, said lead author Akos Bogdan of the Harvard-Smithsonian Center for Astrophysics. That is nowhere near the minuscule ratio of the black holes in our Milky Way and other nearby galaxies — an estimated 0.1%, he noted. "It's just really early on in the universe to be such a behemoth," said Yale University's Priyamvada Natarajan, who took part in the study published in the journal Nature Astronomy. A companion article appeared in the Astrophysical Journal Letters. "It's astounding how this thing actually is sitting in place already with its gal-

axy so early on in the universe." The researchers believe the black hole formed from colossal clouds of gas that collapsed in a galaxy next door to one with stars. The two galaxies merged, and the black hole took over. The fact that Chandra detected it via X-ray confirms "without a doubt that it is a black hole," according to Natarajan. With X-rays "you're actually capturing the gas that is being gravitationally pulled into the black hole, sped up and it starts glowing in the X-rays," she said.

This one is considered a quasar since it's actively growing and the gas is blindingly bright, she added. The Webb telescope alone may have spotted a black hole that is 29 million years older, according to scientists, but it's yet to be observed in X-rays and verified. Natarajan expects

more early black holes will be found — perhaps not as far out, but still quite distant.

"We are expecting a new window to open in the universe, and I think this is the first crack," she said. □

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How to reach us!

The map shows the layout of downtown Aruba, including streets like Weststraat, Schelpstraat, and L.G. Smith Boulevard. It highlights the locations of the Aruba Today and Bondia offices, which are both situated along Weststraat. A magnifying glass is used to zoom in on these specific addresses.

ARUBA TODAY

BONDIA

R.E.M. celebrates 'a very radical departure' 25 years ago with their album 'Up'

By MARK KENNEDY
AP Entertainment Writer

NEW YORK (AP) — Twenty-five years ago, an R.E.M. album arrived that didn't sound like a typical R.E.M. album.

"Up," the band's 11th album which dropped in the fall of 1998, was a curious and challenging collection that split fans and critics alike but reveals more interesting things with each listen. A newly remastered reissue out Friday offers a chance to reevaluate.

"A lot of people may not have liked it because it didn't sound like 'R.E.M.' whatever that is. But that was not the point. We were not trying to sound like R.E.M. We were trying to sound like the three guys that we were at the time," Mike Mills, bassist and band co-founder, tells The Associated Press.

"Up" peaked at No. 3 on the Billboard Top 200 and was certified gold, while single "Daysleeper" was a Top 20 alternative radio hit. Another single, "Lotus," peaked at No. 31 on both the alternative and mainstream rock charts.

"I think it rewards repeated listenings because there is a depth to it. It is not a surface record," said Mills. "I think that that R.E.M. fans will be rewarded with a



This Oct. 28, 2019 photo shows Michael Stipe and Mike Mills, from R.E.M. posing for a portrait in New York. Twenty-five years ago, R.E.M. released "Up," the band's 11th album.

Associated Press

deeper consideration. But it may not be to everyone's taste, and that's certainly fine as well."

In the liner notes for the Craft Recordings anniversary reissue, journalist Josh Modell calls it "the beautiful but misunderstood, complex but overlooked, difficult but incredibly rewarding red-headed stepchild of the R.E.M. catalog."

"Up" was created in the wake of turmoil for the group — Mills, singer Michael Stipe and guitarist Peter Buck. They had be-

come a band of three after drummer and co-founder Bill Berry left the group.

"It was a fresh start for us as a three-piece," said Mills. "There were no blueprints, there were no roadmaps. We were just completely winging it as a three-piece band, and I think we did a really good job."

The 14-track album opens with one of the more challenging songs in the band's catalogue, "Airportman," a hook-less, electronic scar of a song that seemed less welcoming and more off-

putting. "Our feeling was this is a whole new R.E.M. and if you stuck with us this far and you can stick with us through this song, then you'll be rewarded in later times to come," said Mills. "It was kind of an act of defiance and a sly joke at the same time. I like the song. It's just a very strange song to start the record off."

The rest of the album includes the almost too-R.E.M.-"Lotus," the Beach Boys-ish "At My Most Beautiful" and the painfully beautiful "You're In The Air." Many

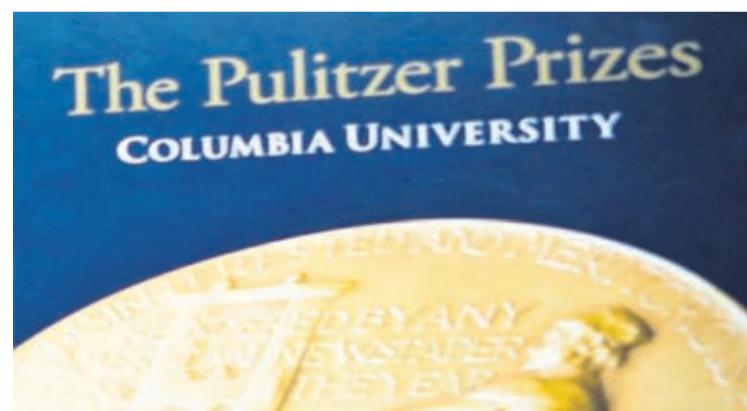
of the songs curl into static or sonic distortion at the end, as if fire was licking at their edges. The last song, "Falls to Climb" is about a stoning, a bummer of a goodbye.

"It was meant to be jarring," said Mills. "There was no way that we were going to pretend that nothing had changed. We were a completely different band at that point. And so we decided to make a record of a completely different band. I think there are some truly beautiful moments. There are some powerful moments."

The San Antonio Express-News said it needed time to digest: "Though darker and less hook-y than any R.E.M. record to date, 'Up' will reward listeners whose attention span is longer than the average Top 40 single." Stereogum at the album's 20th anniversary said it was "one of the more flawed and fascinating documents of R.E.M.'s music."

"I expected people to be shocked and surprised," said Mills. "But, the truth is, our fans know to expect left turns from us. They know we tried not to repeat ourselves. We didn't want to make the same record twice. This just happened to be a very radical departure." □

Broadcast, audio companies will be eligible for Pulitzer Prizes, for work on digital sites



A sign for the Pulitzer Prize is shown at Columbia University, May 28, 2019, in New York.

Associated Press

By DAVID BAUDER
AP Media Writer
NEW YORK (AP) — The Pu-

litzer Prizes, considered the premier award for print journalists, are opening eli-

gibility to broadcast and audio companies that also offer digital news sites. But the work these companies can submit for prize consideration must primarily be written journalism, the Columbia University-based Pulitzer Prize Board said on Monday.

Broadcast news outlets were historically prohibited from entering work in the Pulitzer competition because they produced little text-based journalism. Other competitions, like the Emmys and the duPont-Columbia Awards, honor

broadcast journalism. But television and audio companies like CNN, NPR and broadcasters like ABC, CBS and NBC have robust digital sites.

"There's no such thing as newspaper and broadcast anymore," said Brian Carovillano, senior vice president and head of news standards at NBC News. "We're all digital news operations. We're all operating on multiple platforms."

He noted that The New York Times, considered primarily a print outlet, has won a duPont Award for its

journalism. The Pulitzer Board wanted to make digital news sites that are doing important, written investigative, enterprise and breaking news work eligible for honors, said Marjorie Miller, the Pulitzer administrator.

"Although video may be part of the entry, these are not awards for broadcast journalism," she said.

The change goes into effect for the 2024 Pulitzers, which will begin accepting entries in December. The Pulitzers are traditionally handed out in April. □

Milwaukee grapples with the reality of Craig Counsell managing the Cubs

By STEVE MEGARGEE

AP Sports Writer

MILWAUKEE (AP) — The first sign of discontent regarding Craig Counsell's decision to leave the Milwaukee Brewers to manage the Chicago Cubs appeared in his hometown at the Little League field that bears his name.

The word "ass" was spray-painted across Counsell's name on the sign outside the ballpark at Whitefish Bay, the Milwaukee suburb where Counsell grew up and still lives. The sign was covered up Tuesday morning, one day after the Cubs landed Counsell with a five-year deal worth over \$40 million.

The Brewers now must try to keep winning in Major League Baseball's smallest market without the manager who led them to their greatest run of sustained success.

"We have a really good thing," Brewers principal owner Mark Attanasio said Monday. "I give Craig credit for helping to build that, and for adding all these coaches, all of whom have stayed. So we're going to look for a manager who can continue having a terrific clubhouse culture and that can help us keep winning and hopefully get over the hump in the playoffs." Counsell had been synonymous with Milwaukee baseball as the NL's longest-tenured manager.



Milwaukee Brewers manager Craig Counsell waves to the crowd as he is honored as a former Arizona Diamondbacks player, during the fourth inning of the team's baseball game against the Diamondbacks on Tuesday, April 11, 2023, in Phoenix.

Associated Press

His father, John Counsell, was the Brewers' former director of community affairs. Counsell had two stints with the Brewers in a 16-year playing career and became their winningest manager. He took over the Brewers in 2014 and led them to five playoff appearances over the last six seasons.

Counsell told the Milwaukee Journal-Sentinel on Tuesday the opportunity for a new professional challenge and the proximity of Chicago made this opportunity appealing.

"I think as I was going through this process, it became clear that I needed

and wanted a new professional challenge," Counsell said. "At the same time, look, I'm grateful to be part of this community. And that's going to continue, hopefully, because it has nothing to do with baseball, that part of it. I'm looking forward to being part of a new community and hopefully impact our community well, too. But as I went through it, it just became clear that I needed a new challenge."

The fact he went just 90 miles south to the Brewers' biggest rival made his exit doubly painful for fans.

"You know in the first 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' movie

where they're digging to find the ark of the covenant and they open this big tomb thing and they look down and Indiana Jones says, 'Snakes? Why did it have to be snakes?'" said Kay Kenealy of Waukesha, Wisconsin, a Brewers partial season ticket holder since 2006. "My initial reaction was, 'Oh my God, the Cubs? Why did it have to be the Cubs.'"

Laura Hemming, a partial season ticket holder since the mid-1990s, said the news "felt like kind of a gut punch."

Counsell's exit represents the latest setback for Wisconsin sports fans the same

year that the Green Bay Packers traded four-time MVP quarterback Aaron Rodgers to the New York Jets, though this move to a division foe was more similar to Packers Hall of Fame quarterback Brett Favre finishing his career with the Minnesota Vikings.

At least in that instance, Favre spent a season with the New York Jets before heading to Minnesota rather than going directly from the Packers to a division rival. Gabe Neitzel, a sports talk show host for 94.5 ESPN FM in Milwaukee, said the Favre comparisons have been coming up on his station. "Especially with what Brett meant to the Packers, I think the overwhelming majority of people would still lean toward Brett eventually ending up with the Vikings as the biggest betrayal in Wisconsin sports," Neitzel said.

Attanasio said the Brewers offered Counsell a deal that would have made him the highest-paid manager in baseball "both per season and the total package." Attanasio didn't specify terms, but Cleveland's Terry Francona was believed to be the highest-paid manager in MLB this past season with a salary of \$4.5 million.

The Cubs went way beyond that figure by firing David Ross and luring Counsell. Attanasio was asked Monday if he felt betrayed. □

Diego Maradona's heirs win legal battle over use of trademark

BRUSSELS (AP) — The heirs of the late soccer star Diego Maradona have won a legal battle over the use of his trademark.

Maradona had registered his name as a trademark with the European Union Intellectual Property Office in 2008 for a variety of products, clothing, footwear and headgear. The general court of the European Union confirmed Tuesday that it declined to transfer the trademark to Sattvica, an Argentine company belonging to Maradona's former lawyer. "The docu-

ments submitted in support of the request for registration of the transfer do not justify an assignment of the trade mark to that company," the court said.

Maradona died in November 2020 and Sattvica later requested EUIPO to register the transfer of trademark on the basis of two documents issued by Maradona. After EUIPO registered the transfer, Maradona's heirs had it canceled, and Sattvica asked the EU court to annul the decision.

"The Court dismisses Sattvica's action," it said in a

statement. "It confirms the EUIPO's assessment: the documents produced by that company do not formally justify an assignment of the trade mark in its favor under a contract signed between the two parties. Furthermore, as Maradona had died before the request for registration of the transfer was submitted, Sattvica could not correct the irregularities found. Nor was it able to produce any other documents." Sattvica can appeal the decision to the EU Court of Justice, Europe's top court. □



Argentina's Diego Maradona celebrates at the end of the World Cup soccer final game against West Germany at the Azteca Stadium, in Mexico City, June 29, 1986.

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Tiger Woods to own and play for Florida team in his tech golf league

By DOUG FERGUSON

AP Golf Writer

Tiger Woods couldn't be more involved with prime-time TGL unless he had built the arena. He helped develop the tech-infused golf league. He's playing in it. And now he's a team owner.

Woods and his TGR Ventures and David Blitzer, the investor who has ownership in all four major sports leagues, were announced Tuesday as owners of Jupiter Links GC, the sixth and final team for the first-of-its-kind golf league that starts in January.

Woods, Rory McIlroy and former Golf Channel president Mike McCarley are founding partners in TMRW Sports, the sports and entertainment company behind TGL.

"Having the opportunity to not only compete, but also own a team to represent Jupiter is an exciting next chapter for me," Woods said Tuesday.

Woods referred to TGL as a "modern twist of traditional golf" that ultimately will make it more accessible by leaning the glitz of technology. Key to the modernization is playing in SoFi Center in Palm Beach Gardens, Florida, an arena that holds some 1,600 spectators.

Teams will go head-to-head for nine holes of alternate shot and six holes of singles, starting off by hitting shots from real turf into a screen 20 times larger than a standard simulator, and then shifting to actual shots from 50 yards or closer to a green complex that can turn 360 degrees to create different angles. They putt on a synthetic surface in which contours can change.

It starts Jan. 9. The two-hour matches — two teams at a time — will be televised



Tiger Woods lines up a putt on the 16th hole during the weather delayed second round of the Masters golf tournament at Augusta National Golf Club Saturday, April 8, 2023, in Augusta, Ga.

Associated Press

on ESPN on Mondays and/or Tuesday, ending before the Masters. The prize fund is \$21 million, with \$9 million going to the winning team and players eventually getting equity in the league. Technology is one thing. Woods also said the two-hour window is key to attracting fans.

"Generally, golf takes about five or six hours to play. In today's world, with all of our smartphones, it is hard for anybody to go five to six hours without looking at their phones. So the shorter the time, the better it is."

Three players from the four-man teams compete in each match. Woods hasn't competed since the Mas-

ters because of lingering leg injuries from a February 2021 car crash in Los Angeles. But he expects to be front and center for TGL. "It's exciting that this group of guys is coming together for a two-hour window and we're just going to basically hit balls, talk a lot of (trash) and people are going to be gambling on absolutely everything, each and every shot. Every shot there's going to be a wager."

McCarley, the CEO of TMRW Sports and TGL, said a gaming partner and international media rights are being negotiated ahead of the January debut. Also to be completed is other team names and brand-

ing, along with filling out team rosters.

McIlroy is part of Boston Common, led by Fenway Sports Group, and is joined by New England native Keegan Bradley, Adam Scott and Tyrrell Hatton.

The other teams are Atlanta Drive, led by Arthur Blank of the Atlanta Falcons; Los Angeles Golf Club, led by a group fronted by Alexis Ohanian, Serena and Venus Williams and limited partners that include Alex Morgan and Michelle Wie West; New York, led by Steven Cohen of the New York Mets; and San Francisco, led by Avenue Sports Fund with private equity executive Marc Lasry and Golden

State guard Stephen Curry. Blitzer adds to the roster of high-end investors for the six teams.

He is the first person to hold equity in five North American sports teams — co-managing partner of the Philadelphia 76ers (NBA) and New Jersey Devils (NHL), along with owning a 25% stake in the Cleveland Guardians (MLB) and has a minority stake in the Washington Commanders (NFL). He also is a stakeholder in Real Salt Lake (MLS), along with being general partner in Crystal Palace FC in the Premier League.

Blitzer is a self-described sports fanatic, though he once was quoted as saying he would "never make an investment just for the fun side of the equation."

"At the end of the day, I've got to believe there's a return, that the investment makes a lot of sense. The fun comes along with it," Blitzer said Tuesday.

"The idea of really creating the next evolution of professional golf rang really clearly to me," he said. "And when I think about what's happening today in technology, and the innovations they're bringing here ... I was sold very quickly."

The concept of team play — outside of the Ryder Cup or Presidents Cup — was introduced last year by Saudi-funded LIV Golf and its 12 teams. Woods believes TGL will be easier to follow in part because there is only a team competition, and because some players will have a connection to the city, such as Collin Morikawa with Los Angeles and Bradley in Boston.

"Some of the stuff I've seen in LIV ... I couldn't figure out what the hell was going on," Woods said. "Here it's very simple." □